



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary September 21, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mark Firley and introductions were done.

The meeting summary from July 20, 2015 was approved (motion by T. Printz-Platnick; seconded by K. Walsleben).

Update from the County Council – Several Councilmembers' offices were represented. A new Bill #31-15 was introduced to address the dangers of radon and would require testing prior to home sales in the county. Recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on Liquor Control are expected soon. WSSC will soon conclude their series of advisory committee meetings on the Ten Mile Creek Area Study. Councilmember Rice will hold three community meetings in October (Germantown, North Potomac with Councilmember Katz, and Clarksburg/Damascus). Councilmember Berliner will hold a community meeting with District 1 residents in Bethesda.

Update from Upcounty Regional Director – Ms. Matthews reviewed several announcements in her newsletter.

Discussion – (The scheduled update on the Montgomery Village Master Plan was rescheduled.)

Summary of I-270 Legislative Work Group – UCAB members David Rosenbaum and Robert Nelson, both of whom attended a recent public forum hosted by Del. Carol Krimm (Frederick), summarized comments from that event. The work group consists of state legislators from Frederick and Montgomery Counties.

Topics for UCAB's Upcoming Year – Board members suggested to committee chairs various topics that they thought should have further discussion this year. Lists for both committees will be available at the next board meeting.

General Discussion - Ms. Tobi Printz-Platnick mentioned that the recent 5th Police District/Fire Station Open House could have been better publicized. Ms. Matthews will share that suggestion with the appropriate people in those departments. Mr. Walsleben asked whether Montgomery County had a resilience plan regarding emergency responses, climate change affects, etc. Ms. Matthews responded that the county did have an emergency response plan and perhaps that would be a good topic for discussion.

Chair's Report – Chair Mark Firley reminded the board that interviews to fill the board's two vacancies would be conducted soon. The board's Upcounty priorities for the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) was forwarded to the County Executive, and they were also presented at a meeting Mr. Leggett had with all five regional board chairs.

Committee / Liaison Reports – none. The Executive Committee will review and update the list of committees and liaisons. Mr. Nelson reminded staff that he was asked to serve on a new advisory committee on seniors but the Dept. of Health & Human Services has decided to delay the start of that group.

Community Concerns/Comments – Residents from the greater Goshen community (Bonnie Bell, Charles Tilford, and Rosemary Arkoian) and North Village HOA President Jane Hatch asked the board to support their request to the Planning Board to remove the planning staff's recommendation in the Public Hearing Draft of the Montgomery Village Master Plan to widen Wightman Road. No UCAB action was taken. Clarksburg resident Sarwar Faraz asked the board to support the acceleration of Clarksburg area road and intersection improvements. UCAB members Dennis Barnes brought to the board on behalf of Montgomery Village resident, Sharon Cranford, a concern that there seems to be an increase in break-ins/burglaries in the Whetstone community.

The meeting was adjourned (motion by K. Linck, seconded by T. Printz-Platnick).

Board Attendance: Dennis Barnes, Brian Donohue, Arthur Edmunds, Mark Firley, Kevin Linck, Linda Moore, Robert Nelson, Daisha New, Tobi Printz-Platnick, David Rosenbaum, James Wallace, Kraig Walsleben, and Joel Yesley (via phone).

Board Absentees: Beth Daly, Scott Graham, Mamady Kamara, Darlene Kerr, Pat Seals.

Additional Guests: Dale Tibbitts (Councilmember Elrich), Sharon St. Pierre (Councilmember Rice), Warren Hansen (Councilmember Berliner), Brian Young (Councilmember Katz), Neville Levi, Jeff Samuel (Rep. Delaney), Jane Hatch, Charles Tilford, Bonnie Bell, Rosemary Arkoian

Staff: Catherine Matthews and Chiffon Smith

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